Callington Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1923.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District, including the work done by the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

The Water Supply of the Town, for many years deficient in quantity and has formed a vexed question with the Council and Water Works Company, now gives reasonable hopes that troubles are at an end and the difficulty overcome in a comparatively simple manner; this has been accomplished by the Company acquiring a good stream at Castlewich which is to be pumped by means of a gas engine to a small reservoir at Doublepools, thence to the mains from which, houses, particularly those at the higher levels, will now obtain a full supply. I have made an analysis of the water by means of a simple method of water analysis and consider it quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes. This new supply is estimated to yield 15,000 gallons a day; the total supply should now be sufficient for all purposes.

During the year the Council have been actively investigating fresh sources of water as a preliminary to the consideration of an independent supply but now in consequence of the Water Company's additional supply consider further procedures unnecessary.

Analysis of samples from the Water Company and Pipe Well have been made by the Public Analyst, who reports very favourably and states that both waters are quite suitable for drinking and all other domestic purposes; Pipe Well water being slightly the better of the two.

Six houses and six bungalows have been built during the year; some of these are built and occupied by residents, the others are attractive to new comers. This although conferring a distinct benefit to the town fails to directly relieve the badly housed working classes; the rent is prohibitive, for this reason and that comparatively cheap cottages are difficult to obtain, the closing of the unhealthy dwellings must necessarily proceed slowly.

Unemployment affecting on an average 12 men was less acute than during the previous year, but this number was insufficient to obtain any Government assistance for unemployment. The number of persons in receipt of Poor-Law relief was 20; 14 adults and 6 children, and the amount paid weekly about £4 10s.

1. General Statistics.

Area (acres)	2492
Population (estimated)	1669
Number of Inhabited Houses	467
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers ...	480
Rateable Value ..	£5424 10s. 0d.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£22 12s. 0½d.

2, Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Legitimate	33	16	17
Illegitimate	2	2	—
Birth Rate		20.9	
Deaths	21	9	12
Death Rate		12.5	

There were 18 deaths registered in the District. Three deaths of residents outside the district gives the corrected total 21.

Number of Women, dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth	*Nil*
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births	57.0
,, from Measles (all ages)	*Nil*
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	*Nil*
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	*Nil*

The causes of death at all ages were :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	—	3	3
Diabetes	—	1	1
Heart Disease	3	1	4
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Congenital Debility ...	—	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	1	2	3

3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

		Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Enteric Fever	... ...	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	... ...	11	—	—
Tuberculosis				
a Pulmonary	M. ...	1	—	—
	F. ...	2	—	1
	Total ...	3	—	1
b Non-Pulmonary	M. ..	2	—	1
	F. ..	1	—	—
	Total ...	3	—	1

Analysis of the total cases and deaths under age groups.

Cases	Total	Under 1yr	1yr	2yr	3yr	4yr	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr	35yr	45yr	65 upwards
Enteric Fever	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Death	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Scarlet Fever	11	–	1	–	–	–	4	2	3	1	–	–	–
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary	3	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
Death	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Non-Pulmonary	3	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	–
Death	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–

All ascertained cases of tuberculosis occurring within the District have been notified.

4. Causes of Sickness.

The climatic conditions were unusual; late winter and spring though wet were mild throughout, there was comparatively little sickness and the death rate exceptionally low. May and early June were wet and cold, influenza became epidemic and much sickness with bronchial troubles resulted.

Scarlet Fever made its appearance the first week in October and although it originated in an unhealthy area it is possible it may have been imported; three or four families who had been associating freely were quickly infected, but there was no general spread of the disease, and the cases were of a mild type.

No other infectious disease occurred.

The ages at death were as follows—

Under 1 year	10–20	30–40	50–60	60–70	70–80	80 and over.
2	2	1	4	3	5	4

5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, &c., available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(*a*) *General.* There is a District Nurse who is available for maternity and general nursing.

(*b*) *For Infectious Diseases.* None.

Midwives. None.

Clinical Treatment Centres. Plymouth.

Hospitals. None.

The nearest hospitals are at Liskeard, 8 miles, and Tavistock, 10 miles; practically all cases are sent to Plymouth. There is no Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Institutional Provision. None.

Ambulance Facilities. None.

The nearest being at Liskeard.

6. Laboratory Work.

Pathological and Bateriological examinations are done at an outside Laboratory.

The Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order is adopted when necessary.

The Adoptive Act in force in the District is—

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act (adopted 1902.)

The Bye-laws in force are –

1. Slaughterhouses (adopted 1908.)
2. New Streets and Buildings (adopted 1908.)
3. Nuisances (adopted 1906.)
4. Dairies and Cowsheds (adopted 1908.)

7. Sanitary Administrations.

Inspections made for all purposes ...	220
Notices served	12
Complaints received	4
Premises, houses, etc., inspected	60
,, ,, Nuisance abated ...	26
Sewers repaired	2
Drains laid or repaired	16
New w.c's. provided	9
Overcrowding	nil
Factories and Workshops inspected ...	25

Of Smiths' and Bakers' premises, 3 required limewashing.

All premises in which Infectious Diseases occurred were disinfected with Formalin and cleansed with Izal.

8. Public Health Staff.

The Staff consists of—

1. The Medical Officer of Health, holding the D.P.H. Camb. He is a part-time Officer, who is also Poor Law Medical Officer for the District.

3. The Sanitary Inspector is also a part-time Officer and holds the A.R.S.I. A contribution is made to the salaries of both Officers by Exchequer Grants.

9. Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total	12
(*b*) As part of a municipal housing scheme ...	*nil*

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 60

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations. 1910. . . .. *nil*

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 6

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 10

2. *Remedy of Defect without Service of formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... *many*

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... *nil*

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—

(*a*) by owners ... ... *nil*

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... *nil*

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ... *nil*

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... *nil*

(2) Number of dwelling housing in which defects were remedied:—

(*a*) by owners ... ... *nil*

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners .. *nil*

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ... *nil*

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... *nil*

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ... *nil*

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... *nil*

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... ... *nil*

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. DAVIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.